

Prior to payment of the Issue Fee, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace page 4 line 1 to page 7 line 18 of the specification with the following:

At *Ebay.Com* (Figure 1, July 15, 1999), the largest Internet auction site, millions of objects are “auctioned” at any given time. Search for goods is accomplished through browsing the extensive category trees/paths (Figure 1A), or entering item type or name through a “search” function. The auction item list obtained through category browsing is astoundingly large, on the order of hundreds to thousands of items, over many tens of web-pages (each can be more than one physically printed page), listed with an abbreviated one-line entry or a thumbnail entry for each item. Figures ~~1C1 and 1C2~~ 1B1 and 1B2 are 2 pages of a list of “Featured” furniture auction items, and Figure ~~1C3~~ 1B3 is the 1st page of 37 pages of 1761 furniture items being auctioned on the *Ebay.Com* site on July 15, 1999. Note that the right most column indicates the “ending time” of the auctions, mostly ending around July 22 through July 25, a ten day auction time span, impossible to accommodate in conventional “live” auctions, which measure auction time for each item in minutes. Choosing items out of such a large list can only be accomplished by reading through tens or hundreds of one-line abbreviated descriptions of each item, and choosing one item from the list to view the more detailed information about the item, one-at-a-time. Once an item is thus chosen, the browser/buyer clicks on the line or thumbnail entry of the item on the list (see Figure ~~1C2~~ 1B2, item 122 on the page), and waits for its descriptions to be sent to the screen from the remote site server (Figures ~~1D1 through 1D3~~ 1C1 through 1C3.) If the buyer wishes to view more items from the list of hundreds of items, it can only be done, again, one-at-a-time, by clicking “back” to the list, and choose another item, click on the item, wait for page download, thus repeating. When the buyer is viewing information about one interested item, the information for other items previously viewed are gone from the screen The buyer must print all information of every item, before clicking “back” to the list to access information of another item. The comparison between similar or interested items can only be reasonably done by reading the volume of printout pages of these items. At the mean time, the auction status and current high-bid of some items may have already changed. Although such process

is tedious and time consuming, for many people, it is still preferred over making the effort required to attend a conventional physical “live” auction.